Amendments to the Claims

With this Amendment, claims 1-9 have been amended and claims 10 and 11 have been added. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for producing fabric-reinforced capillary membranes, in which a fabric tube [[(1)]] is coated with a polymer solution and is guided through a precipitation bath [[(6),]] where the polymer solution is converted into a microporous layer ~~in the precipitation bath (6),~~ and a capillary membrane that is reinforced by the fabric tube is formed, wherein the fabric tube [[(1)]] coated with the polymer solution passes through the precipitation bath [[(6)]] from top to bottom, without mechanical contact or exposure to mechanical stresses, and exits through a nozzle [[(7)]] at the bottom, whereby liquid flows out of the nozzle [[(7)]], which liquid exerts a tensile force stabilizing [[the]] a course of the coated fabric tube[[,]] on the capillary membrane [[(8)]] leaving the precipitation bath.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fabric tube [[(1)]] is drawn off from a supply roller [[(3)]] by means of an advancing drive [[(2)]] that can be regulated, and passed to a device [[(4)]] for coating the fabric tube arranged behind the advancing drive [[(3)]] in [[the]] a transport direction.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fabric tube coated with the polymer solution passes through a pipe [[(9)]] arranged vertically, which contains the precipitation bath [[(6)]] and has a nozzle-shaped narrowing at [[its]] a lower end of the pipe.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 3, wherein a precipitation agent is supplied to the pipe in an application amount that is sized in such a way

that ~~limit~~ limits values for [[the]] a temperature and/or [[the]] a permissible solvent concentration [[are]] maintained in the precipitation bath [[(6)]], whereby merely a partial stream of the precipitation agent supplied to the pipe [[(9)]] flows out through the nozzle-shaped narrowing at the lower end of the pipe, and ~~the other~~ another part of the supplied precipitation agent is drawn off from the pipe at a different location [[(11)]].

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the precipitation agent is supplied at a lower pipe segment [[(10)]], and an overflow [[(11)]] is drawn off at [[the]] an upper end of the pipe.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in ~~one of claims~~ claim 1, wherein the capillary membrane [[(8)]] leaving the precipitation bath [[(6)] is passed to a post-precipitation bath [[(12)]], for further conditioning, without mechanical contact of [[the]] a surface of the capillary membrane ~~surface~~.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 1, wherein that the capillary membrane [[(8)]] is cut to length after it leaves the precipitation bath [[(6)]].

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the fabric tube [[(1)]] is closed at pre-determined intervals, before it is coated or after it leaves the precipitation bath [[(6)]], and that the membrane tube leaving the precipitation bath [[(6)]] is cut to measure, in such a manner that capillary membranes each having an open and a closed end are formed.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the fabric tube [[(1)]] can also be closed by means of thermal bonding or ultrasound bonding, or that for this purpose, a polymer solution is injected into the fabric tube [[(1)]], which solution forms a solid plug in the precipitation bath [[(6)]] and/or in a post-precipitation bath [[(12)]].

10. (New) A method for producing fabric-reinforced capillary membranes, in which a fabric tube is coated with a polymer solution and is guided through a precipitation bath where the polymer solution is converted into a microporous layer and a capillary membrane that is reinforced by the fabric tube is formed, wherein the fabric tube coated with the polymer solution passes through the precipitation bath from top to bottom, without mechanical contact, and exits through a nozzle at the bottom, whereby liquid flows out of the nozzle, which liquid exerts a tensile force stabilizing a course of the coated fabric tube on the capillary membrane leaving the precipitation bath, wherein the fabric tube coated with the polymer solution passes through a pipe arranged vertically, which contains the precipitation bath and has a nozzle-shaped narrowing at a lower end of the pipe, and wherein precipitation agent is supplied to the pipe in an application amount that is sized in such a way that limits values for a temperature and/or a permissible solvent concentration maintained in the precipitation bath, whereby merely a partial stream of the precipitation agent supplied to the pipe flows out through the nozzle-shaped narrowing at the lower end of the pipe, and another part of the supplied precipitation agent is drawn off from the pipe at a different location.

11. (New) A method for producing fabric-reinforced capillary membranes, in which a fabric tube is coated with a polymer solution and is guided through a precipitation bath where the polymer solution is converted into a microporous layer and a capillary membrane that is reinforced by the fabric tube is formed, wherein the fabric tube coated with the polymer solution passes through the precipitation bath from top to bottom, without mechanical contact, and exits through a nozzle at the bottom, whereby liquid flows out of the nozzle, which liquid exerts a tensile force stabilizing the course of the coated fabric tube on the capillary membrane leaving the precipitation bath, wherein the capillary membrane leaving the precipitation bath is passed to a post-precipitation bath, for further conditioning, without mechanical contact of a surface of the membrane.